

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUBUMB 00658 070934Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 (ISO) W
-----093563 070956Z /20

O 070800Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2470
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
USCINCEUR/IMMEDIATE/

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0658

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS,MOPS, CG, ZA
SUBJECT: SHABA DEVELOPMENTS: JUNE 7,1978

1. MILITARY SITUATION: NO HOSTILITIES REPORTED. AT THE
END OF THE DAY ON JUNE 6, US AIR FORCE AND FOREIGN CIVILIAN
CHARTER PLANES HAD BROUGHT ABOUT 1250 MOROCCANS INTO
SHABA AND PICKED UP 361 FRENCH LEGIONNAIRES AND THEIR
EQUIPMENT FOR THE RETURN TRIP TO CORSICA. THE 11 C-141'S
WHICH LANDED AT LUBUMBASHI ON MJUNE 6 CARRIED LOADS DIVIDED
ALMOST EVENLY BETWEEN AMMUNITION AND FOODSTUFFS FOR
THE MOROCCANS.

2. COLONEL GRAS HEAD OF FRENCH MILITARY TEAM SAID THAT
LAST LEGIONNAIRES TO DEPART WOULD BE THE 150 WHO HAVE
BEEN STATIONED IN KOLWEZI. GRAS SAID THEY WOULD REMAIN
UNTIL THE MOROCCANS COULD TAKE THEIR PLACE. AT CEREMONEY
ON JUNE 6,PRESIDENT MOBUTU PRSENTED SHABA
II CAMPAIGN DECORATIONS TO COLONEL GRAS AND OTHER
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LEGIONNAIRES.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROSS AT CEREMONY FOR LEGION
NAIRES STATED PRIVATELY THAT AFTER HIS FEW DAYS IN
SHABA HE WAS CONVINCED THAT EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY HAD
CALMED DOWN AND WAS NOW WILLING TO ACCEPT PAN AFRICAN
FORCE INPLACE OF LEGIONNAIRES. OTHER OBSERVERS

STATED THAT IT WAS PEHAPS TOO SOON TO MAKE SUCH AN ASSESSMENT.

4. KOLWEZI. TEAMFROM GECAMINES/LUBUMBASHI WHICH HAD BEEN MAKING DAILY VISITS TO KOLWEZI TO ASSIST IN OPERATIONS WAS TURNED BACK AT KOLWEZI AIRPORT ON JUNE 6 BY LOCAL MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO SAID THEIR VISITING PERMITS SIGNED BY LUBUMBASHI MILITARY AUTHORITIES WERE NO LONGER VALID. IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS IS MINOR MISUNDERSTANDING POART OF MILITARY STRUGGLE BETWEEN SEPARATE UNITS OVER CONTROL OF ACCESS TO KOLWEZI,OR STEP IN GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO SHOWLHAT GCM KOLWEZI OPERATIONS DO NOT NEED HEAVY EXPATRIATE GUIDANCE. GCM HAS ALSO PICKED UP REPORTS THAT THE CND IS PREPARING A LIST OF EXPATRIATES WHO WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO KOLWEZI BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO INVOLVED IN LOCAL AFFAIRS.

5. ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA SPENT MOST OF JUNE 6 IN LUBUMBASHI. HE APPARENTLY TURNED DOWN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MOBUTU PRESENT AWARDS TO DEPARTING LEGIONNAIRES AND TO VISIT SOME OF THE BATTLE AREAS. MEMBERS OF HIS CONSULATE STAFF SAID THAT ALL OF THE GROUP SESSIONS BETWEEN THE ZAMBIANS AND THE ZAIRIANS HAD BEEN VERY AMICABLE. THEY BELIEVED THAT KAUNDA'S BASIC MESSAGE WAS THAT THE SHABAN WAR WAS AN INTERNAL MATTER
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AND THAT MOBUTU SHOULD SEEK RECONSILATION WITH THE DISAFFECTED REBEL GROUPS. THEY DOUBTED THAT KAUNDA WOULD TRY TO PLAY AN INTERMEDIARY ROLE OR HAD CARRIED ANY MESSAGES FROM ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO, POINTING OUT THAT AS FAR AS THEY KNEW IT HAD BEEN THE ZAIRIANS WHO REQUESTED AN URGENT MEETING. ONE OBSERVER SPECULATED THAT MOBUTU MAY HAVE BEEN MORE INTERESTED IN THE APPARENT SOLIDARITY WHICH COULD BE DERIVED FROM A MEETING WITH KAUNDA THAN WITH ANY SPECIFIC--AND MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN--AGREEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUBUMB00658
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-0720
Format: TEL
From: LUBUMBASHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780687/aaaacwmp.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d3c5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2456945
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA DEVELOPMENTS: JUNE 7,1978
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CG, ZA, FR, MO
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d3c5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014